

TOBACCO GROWERS GUNS ARE LOADED

Convention of Bi-State Farmers Conclude Their Work and Adjourn

COMPLETE FUSION PLANS

Virginia and North Carolina Growers of "Bright Belt" Tobacco, Limited in Area to a Section in These Two States and Small Area of South Carolina, Believe That Effecting the Fusion of Strength and Adopting the Plan to Pool This Year's Crop, They Are Behind Break-works From Which They Can Dictate Terms to the American Tobacco Company—Some Pertinent Particulars.

(Special to News and Observer.)
Greensboro, Aug. 26.—The convention of Tobacco Growers of North Carolina and Virginia, which met here yesterday, adjourned today after having unanimously adopted plans to pool the 1911 crop of tobacco and completed a fusion of strength which they believe will prove effective in warring against the American Tobacco Company.

The meetings all having been secret, only such proceedings as given out by the press committee have been authoritatively learned, but it is stated by that committee that the farmers have agreed to hold their tobacco for 15 and 20 cents a pound, according to the grades, and furthermore, that the members of the Union are in a position to secure the desired price.

It is evident from the gathering held here that the project of pooling the tobacco crop did not originate from a sudden impulse, but preparations have been going on in anticipation of it during the past five years. Throughout the Piedmont section of North Carolina and Virginia ten large tobacco prizeeries have been erected during the past few years, and six more are in the course of construction. These prizeeries will be used to store the crop of the community in which they are located, each of them having a capacity of over 5,000,000 pounds. The best tobacco growing counties do not raise over 11,000,000 pounds, while the general average is about 5,000,000 pounds, so that one prizeery will hold practically the entire crop of a county.

By the means of this union of forces the farmers will be able to place their crops of tobacco on the market at almost one-half of the cost as heretofore charged. The farmers are directing their action principles against the injustices of the large tobacco trusts and warehouse owners, who, together, manage to squeeze just about all the profit of the producer. The effect of the present move on the part of the farmers will apparently mean complete boycott of the warehouse men, although the members of the press committee would not express it in those terms.

The leaders of the union have already taken necessary steps to prevent such a failure in their undertaking as occurred when the farmers of Tennessee made a similar move. They claim that they are backed by strong financial institutions and that in connection with the pooling plan they have organized a banking system that cannot be surpassed. Of course, there will be a few farmers, they admit, who will sell a little of their crop for necessary food supplies, but the number of these will be small. The Union does not bind the members to any agreement, but the delegates assembled here, representing over 20,000 tobacco growers of the two States, seemed to have arrived at the firm conclusion that the time of combined action has arrived. The Farmers' Union has many brainy men at its head, and they are showing tact in the organization of their forces that is not surpassed by the system of the American Tobacco Company itself.

Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of Mecklenburg, addressed the farmers today and advised them to plant grain and feed crops for their home consumption in order that the tobacco may be used as a money-making product alone. The advice of Dr. Alexander came too late, however, for the farmers informed him that they have already

taken such action. They seemed to be prepared for battle.

THE DETECTIVE WHO FASTENED CRIME BEATTIE

(Continued from page six.)

fright by toppling over, as he always does, since he was hurt in a street car accident many years ago. Before that he did not have those fainting spells. Just what there is new—or, rather, what he did not tell before the coroner because of his condition—will make a sensation when it comes out.

"When I left Paul in his cell he remarked to me: 'Please tell the Journal for me that the only confession that has been made by me has been to Mr. Sherer, who has been working up this case,' and I know that Mr. Sherer has gotten all that Paul knows—and he has not told any one what that is save and except the lawyers for the prosecution. I am satisfied that Paul will fool the lawyers when they try to break him down, and he seems very much stronger now than at any time since this awful affair became known. I am sorry for the father of Henry Beattie. He is a fine gentleman. I have known him for years."

Paul and Henry Refused to Speak to Each Other.

Richmond, Aug. 24.—A considerable crowd of the morbidly curious was at Henrico County jail when Henry Beattie entered an automobile containing detectives bound for Chesterfield Court House.

Paul Beattie was in the lobby of the jail when Henry emerged from the corridor into which his cell opens and which leads to the lobby. The two came abreast of each other and their eyes met. Paul glared for a full minute at his cousin, but neither spoke.

Henry's face flushed. Finally he turned his back on Paul, and calling "Good-bye, George," to an inmate or attendant, turned on his heel and left the building.

FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS. August 25th.

(By the Associated Press.)

Chesterfield Court House, Va., Aug. 25.—R. L. Sydnor, a dairyman, Sam Tally, a day laborer, and A. K. Briggs, the 15-year-old son of a Richmond contractor, took the witness stand in Old Chesterfield Court House today and gave what the prosecution regard as the most important and the most dramatic testimony so far introduced in the trial of Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., under indictment for wife murder.

In all an even dozen witnesses were heard but Paul Beattie, the star witness for the commonwealth, was not among them.

He may be called tomorrow afternoon.

During the morning session the witnesses rehearsed a great deal of the testimony that came out at the coroner's inquest.

The Dairyman's Damaging Testimony.

The dairyman swore that between sunset and dark on the night of the murder he saw an automobile similar to Beattie's halt at the roadside not far from the scene of the crime. A lone man stepped out, he said, and this man, the prosecution will attempt to show, was Beattie, concealing the gun with which it is alleged he shot his wife.

Tally swore that about 11 o'clock that night sitting on the back porch of his home, not far from the roadside, he heard the scream of a woman, then a shot and finally the noise of an automobile starting.

Was this Man Henry Beattie?

The Briggs boy testified that some time between 10:30 and 11 o'clock, on the same night he and a number of companions, in an automobile passed a car at the roadside, a stone's throw from where the murder was committed. The man, he said, apparently was fixing a tire; the woman was standing on the running board.

The boy was not asked if the man he saw was the prisoner, but under cross examination by the defense he maintained that they passed no other car on the remainder of the journey to Richmond. Some of his companions will be called to testify along this line tomorrow.

"Just between sun set and dark," testified Sydnor in direct examination, "I saw a big automobile going west along the turnpike very slowly."

"Who was in that car?"

"One man."

"What did he do as he passed?"

"He ran around and stopped ahead of me."

"How near was the place he stopped to the blood spot which marked the scene of the crime?"

"Not more than thirty feet either way," said the witness.

"What did the man do?"

Beattie leaned forward in his seat and gazed intently at the witness as the question was asked.

"When I left him," said Sydnor, "he was working in a ditch at the roadside on the machine's right rear

tire."

"Was he an old or young man?"

"He was a young man and wore a brownish suit."

There was a hush in the court room as the sheriff unrolled the bloody brown coat worn by Beattie on the night of the murder.

The witness said the color of the garment resembled that of the coat worn by the man at the roadside.

He was instructed to look at the defendant and to state if the man he saw was about the same size.

"Yes," said the dairyman slowly, "about the same size."

"Have you seen the Beattie automobile since the murder," he was asked. He said he had and that generally it agreed with the car he had seen on the roadway.

Had Color of Car Down Right.

"It was a big, four passenger car," he said, "and the top was yellow."

The Beattie car has a yellow top.

Cross-examined by H. M. Smith for the defense the witness admitted that he was not an expert on automobiles and might mistake a four-passenger car for a five passenger car. He stuck generally to his story however.

This Witness Heard Mrs. Beattie's Death Scream.

Sam Tally, who said he worked in a quarry, followed Sydnor on the stand.

"I was sitting in the back porch of my house about three hundred yards from the road," Tally testified in direct examination, "when, all of a sudden, about 11 o'clock I heard the scream of a woman, then a shot. In about ten minutes more I heard an automobile start."

"Did you hear anything else, the cries of a man for help or the tooting of an automobile horn?" asked the defense in support of Beattie's story that he had tried to summon aid after the bearded highwayman had fired into the car.

"I did not," said the witness. But on further examination he admitted that he might have said on the morning after the crime that he had heard an automobile horn sounded.

Talked With Henry.

He recalled having talked with Henry Beattie and a party of officers when they visited the scene.

"What did you say then?" he was asked.

"I said that if a man had shot into a car of mine I would have crawled out over my wife's body, grabbed his gun and beaten him with it until only a fraze was left."

The Other Witnesses.

Among the other witnesses at the afternoon session were T. P. Pettigrew, to whom a negro delivered the gun; N. H. Jacobs, a justice of the peace of Chesterfield county; Eddie Shephardson, and James Thomas, both negroes, who live near the scene of the crime.

Jacobs, who was called to the Owen home soon after the tragedy, testified that Beattie gave him a statement of the alleged encounter substantially as told to others.

Dirt in the Hair of Corpse.

The boy had said, however, that he did not believe he could identify the man who had fired the shot. He had examined the victim's body and had found dirt—he was not sure it was grit—in the bloody hair. He said he had seen blood on the gun, but under cross-examination admitted that several persons who had been around the bloody car, had handled the weapon.

Swears There Were Two Automobiles.

The negro Thomas, whose house stands about 150 yards from where the blood spot was found in the road, testified to hearing two automobiles, one after the other, then the shot. He heard no cries or toots of horns.

But This Witness Says One Only.

The Shephardson boy, who said he lived "two squares" from the scene, told of having heard the shot and the noise of a car starting toward town.

The trial will be resumed tomorrow and it is expected that Paul Beattie, the chief State witness, will be called during the day.

The Newspaper Women and Female Lawyers in Attendance.

Richmond, Va., Aug. 25.—Twice during the trial yesterday the young women reporters in attendance upon the case had to retire because of the doubtful nature of testimony adduced.

Their first exit was made when Dr. Herbert Mann went on the stand and was examined by Lawyer Wendenburg.

"Will the young ladies please excuse themselves for a few moments," requested Mr. Wendenburg.

Whereupon several young ladies proceeded to seek the outer air of the courthouse green. The young lady lawyer from Washington, who is down here to get a few pointers on criminal court practice preliminary to journeying to Alaska to hang out her shingle and make a name for herself, also got out.

And, of course, they all blushed as they made their exit from the room.

"Tell the lady press agents they can now return," directed Lawyer Wendenburg when he had finished with Dr. Mann.

"Press agents, did you say?" queried a male scribe from the reporters' bench.

"Yes."

"You had better not let them hear you say so," cautioned the scribe.

"They are newspaper women writers and they are very proud of their profession."

Mr. Wendenburg retracted the statement just as the young ladies reappeared in court.

Their second exit was rendered necessary when May Stuart went on the stand a little later, and gave testimony that redounded in no wise to the moral character of the prisoner at the bar.

The young ladies were on hand again today with their pads and pencils. One of them hails from far-off Cleveland, Ohio, having come all the way to Richmond to get the heart throbs in the Beattie case. Another is on hand from Washington. Dorothy Dix, she of much fame, was expected down yesterday from little old New York, but failed to arrive. She will probably arrive today.

No More Photographs.

There will be no more photographs of Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., and his father taken on the court green for some days to come at least, if at all.

Mr. Beattie, Sr., said yesterday morning that he had been so annoyed by being "snapped" during the past week that he was going to put a stop to it, even to the extent of asking the court to protect him if necessary.

Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., expressed a disinclination to having any more pictures taken, and it is not likely that he will be so frequently confronted by the camera in the future as he has been.

THE CHAMPION MUNCHAUSEN.

A Chatham Snake That Had Swallowed Chickens Was Compelled to Disgorge Them—The Chickens Lived and Did Well.

(Chatham Record.)

Mr. J. C. Boon, of this township, informs us that we were slightly in error last week in stating that the nine-foot chicken snake which he killed in his hen house one night recently was found, upon examination, to have shortly before devoured thirteen young wild turkeys. Instead of being turkeys, Mr. Boon states that they were all young chickens and that just as the snake was in the act of devouring the old hen he arrived on the scene with a hoe and not only saved the life of the hen but compelled the snake to disgorge some half a dozen of the small chicks.

And now comes the remarkable part of the story for which Mr. Boon vouches (and he is known by all his acquaintances as a most reputable man), and that is, the young chicks which the snake disgorged hopped out alive, were raised by the old hen and later were eaten by Mr. Boon and his family, who pronounced them the equal of any fried chicken of the season.

MRS. CLEVELAND A HEROINE.

Drags Man With Clothes Ablaze From Flames at Summer Home.

(Meredith (N. H.) Special in Washington Post.)

Friends of Mrs. Grover Cleveland, who is spending the summer at her country home here, are congratulating her today on her bravery in fighting fire in a gas house a few feet from her dwelling.

Although the fire was extinguished before it reached the Cleveland home, William O. Cook, caretaker of the property, was severely burned and it is feared that he may die. Mrs. Cleveland has sent to Boston for two physicians to attend him. The fire is believed to have been started by an explosion.

Mrs. Cleveland, who had been aroused by the explosion, helped him in the fight, throwing many pails of water upon the flames. Her children also took a hand in the work by establishing a water-pail relay.

When Cook's clothing took fire the second time Mrs. Cleveland threw a pail of water over him and dragged him away from the flames. Neighbors had been attracted to the scene by this time and under her direction they managed to get the fire under control before it spread to the Cleveland dwelling.

CROPS TO BE SHORT.

Observations by Wise Editor Who Has Traveled Extensively.

(Whiteville Cor. Wilmington Star.)

Mr. Grant during his travels, passed over 500 miles of country and says that cotton is a practical failure. From Charlotte to Rutherfordton he says cotton will not average a bale to several acres. He traveled in a buggy over upper Spartanburg and crops are cut off one-half or more. It is the same from Spartanburg to Columbia, and as far as Sumter county, S. C., where they begin to improve. He met a gentleman who had traveled from Birmingham, Ala., and he reports short crops all along the road. The people are everywhere denouncing Secretary Wilson for his exaggerated reports of the crop, and the general impression is that the yield will not much exceed last year.

An ounce of flattery goes further with a woman than a pound of pity.

What makes women so good is that they aren't men.

A man with his mouth full of lather might as well talk against his barber as against his family any time.